

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claim 1 is has been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 is pending.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S. C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Martinesson and claim 3 as being anticipated by Tobinai.

In response to the rejections, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include all the limitations of original claims 1 and 2. Claims 2 and 3 are canceled.

According to the Examiner, Martinesson illustrates in FIGS 3 and 4 and describes in the corresponding paragraphs 0074 to 0078 all limitations of claim 1 of the present invention. As to claim 2, the Examiner believes that Martinesson discloses a cam-shaft pulley 33 and a valve plate 25 that is rotated in an interlocking manner via a push-rod 31 (corresponding to a contact element in the present invention) making contact with a cam surface of the rotating cam-shaft pulley 33. However, the cam-shaft pulley 33 does not have a cam groove as disclosed and claimed in the present invention. Thus, Martinesson fails to disclose the claim limitation that a front end of the contact element contacts the cam groove.

For the foregoing reasons, the features cited in the amended claim 1 are not anticipated by Martinesson.

Therefore, Applicant believes that the rejections are overcome by the amendments to claim 1 and, accordingly, the claimed invention is now allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, the sole pending claim in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,

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